



San Antonio Police Department

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DATE: March 8, 2004

RELEASE NO: 04-022

MEDIA ADVISORY

WHO: San Antonio Police Department & D.E.A. (Drug Enforcement Agency)

WHAT: News Conference to discuss a review conducted by SAPD & DEA

WHEN: Monday, March 8, 2004 at 10:30am

Beginning in late 2003, Detectives with the San Antonio Police Department and Agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration started a review into businesses in our community selling drug paraphernalia in violation of federal statutes, specifically Title 21 U.S.C Section 863(a). These locations are commonly referred to as "head shops". Starting March 5, 2004, Detectives and Agents started to serve the owners or their agents with letters notifying them of our findings, while at the same time making them aware of the consequences of non-compliance (3 years in prison, a substantial fine, and drug paraphernalia inventories subject to seizure and forfeiture).

It is recommended that any business owner who may be in possession of drug paraphernalia, commonly referred to as, but not limited to, water pipes, roach clips, bongs and chillums destroy or legally dispose of the items immediately. The affected owners, who may have questions regarding the dispersed letters, can contact the DEA or Detectives with the SAPD Narcotics Unit.

SAPD Police Chief Albert Ortiz and DEA Agent in Charge Javier Pena will be present to address the media regarding the review and answer any questions from the media.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE